(a) the States where classical art "Yakshagana" is popular;

(b) whether this art has been classified under folk art even though it maintains its own individuality and uniqueness;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to classify it separately as a classical art; and

(d) the steps contemplated by the Government to encourage this art?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Yakshagana is popular in Karnataka, the State to which this theatre form belongs.

(b) No, Sir, but like other popular theatre forms in various States, it is usually referred to as a folk or traditional theatre.

(c) and (d). The Department of Culture and the Sangeet Natak Akademi are encouraging Yakshagana by giving grants to prominent Yakshagana institutions for training in the art, etc., as well as by giving awards to notable Yakshagana artistes.

[*Translation*]

Mobile Hospitals in Rural Areas

3368. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme in regard to mobile hospitals in rural areas of the State Governments is under consideration of the Government during the Eighth Plan; and

(b) if so, the number of hospitals in the Uttar Pradesh to be provided financial assistance under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b). The Government have not yet formulated any con-crete scheme for operating mobile hospitals in rural and backward areas.

Concrete Sleeper Plants in Sonebhadra and Mirzapur

3369. SHRI RAM NIHOR RAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for setting up of concrete sleeper plants in Sonebharda and Mirzapur districts of U. P. where the repaired material and infrastructural facilities are available;

(b) if so, by what time; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no additional requirement.

[*English*]

Reply to Representations

3370. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of letters received by the Area Manager/DRM, Delhi and the Minister of Railways during October 1991 from MPs.

(b) the number of letters out of those finally replied; and